

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“~~—~~”) being deleted:

1. (Presently Amended) A method for blocking unsolicited e-mail ~~being~~ transmitted to an e-mail server at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) from a remote server ~~when a roaming customer of the ISP logs onto the Internet through the remote server,~~ the method comprising:

receiving a user identification (USERID) and a password associated with ~~the a~~ a roaming customer;

retrieving a plurality of data associated with the roaming customer ~~from a Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) database located at the ISP~~ based on the USERID and password;

authenticating the ~~remote~~ roaming customer using the retrieved plurality of data; ~~assigning an IP address to the roaming customer;~~

dynamically adding ~~the~~ an IP address assigned to the roaming customer to a plurality of valid IP address addresses associated with the ISP; and

logging the roaming customer onto a mail server ~~at the ISP from the remote server~~ using the IP address and the plurality of data used to authenticate the ~~remote~~ roaming customer ~~at the remote server,~~ customer, wherein only the ~~remote~~ roaming customer may access the mail server using the assigned IP address from the remote server.

2. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein authenticating the roaming customer comprises:

~~transmitting~~ receiving the USERID and password associated with the roaming customer to an authentication server ~~at the ISP;~~ ISP;

comparing the USERID and password against ~~each~~ at least one USERID and password associated with ~~every~~ at least one registered user of the ISP;

generating a negative response if the USERID and password associated with the roaming customer does not match a USERID and password associated with ~~any~~ at least one ~~of the~~ registered ~~customers;~~ customer;

generating a positive response if the USERID and password associated with the roaming customer matches a USERID and password associated with at least one ~~10~~ of the registered ~~customers;~~ customer; and

~~generating~~ receiving a START record, the START record indicating the beginning of the roaming customer's access to the mail server.

3. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of IP ~~address associated with the ISP~~ addresses are used only by roaming customers registered with the ISP to access the Internet through the remote server.

4. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein dynamically adding the roaming customer's IP address to a pool of valid IP address comprises:

reading the START record, a timestamp, a RELAY from the database; and

forwarding the START record, USERID, password, and IP address ~~to the mail server~~ for adding the IP address to the pool of valid IP addresses.

5. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein logging the roaming customer onto the mail server comprises:

initiating an SMTP request to send e-mail from an e-mail application server; and

validating the IP address of the roaming customer against the pool of valid IP addresses.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising logging off the roaming customer from the remote server.

7. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein logging off the roaming customer, comprises:

~~generating~~ receiving a termination signal by the roaming customer;

transmitting the roaming customer's USERID to the remote ~~network~~ server to identify the roaming customer to be logged off; and

~~transferring the USERID to the Authentication server on the ISP;~~

~~generating~~ receiving a STOP record ~~and transferring the STOP record to the AAA Server~~ ISP, record, wherein the STOP record is operable to identify the roaming customer.

8. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~generating~~ receiving the STOP record ~~is further operable for~~ further comprises determining whether the roaming customer has sent any unauthorized email messages.

9. (Presently Amended) A method of connecting a roaming customer to a foreign network access server (NAS) to prevent unsolicited e-mails from being transmitted from the foreign network access server (~~NAS~~) to the roaming customer's Internet Service Provider (ISP), comprising:

receiving a user command through an Internet device associated with the roaming customer to connect to the foreign NAS;

~~transmitting a user identification (USERID) and a password from the Internet device to the foreign NAS, wherein the USERID and password are associated with the roaming customer;~~

~~transmitting~~ receiving the USERID, a user identification (USERID) and password to an Authentication, Authorization, and password, wherein the USERID and password are associated with the roaming customer;

~~Accounting AAA Server located at the roaming customer's ISP for the purpose of authenticating the roaming customer as a registered user of the ISP;~~

generating a positive response if the roaming customer is a registered user of the ISP;

~~assigning a local IP address to the roaming customer, the local IP address being selected from a plurality of IP address at the foreign NAS;~~

~~generating~~ receiving a START record indicating that the roaming customer is being logged onto the ~~system;~~ NAS; and

writing the START record to a ~~database located at the roaming customer's ISP.~~ database.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating a negative response if the roaming customer is not a registered user at the ISP.
11. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein generating a negative response comprises ~~not allowing the roaming customer to authenticate, and~~ denying the roaming user access to the Internet through the NAS.
12. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the START record comprises a ~~NAS~~ an IP address, a ~~NAS~~ protocol, a ~~NAS~~ port type, a User name, a called ~~ID-station~~, station ID, a calling station ID, an account status type, an account authentication, a service type, an account session ID, a framed protocol, an account delay time, and a start timestamp.
13. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the [AAA] database contains data organized similar to a Terminal Access Controller Access Control System (TACACS) ~~format~~, format.
14. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the [AAA] database has been modified to include a USERID field.

15. (Presently Amended) A method of logging on a roaming customer of an Internet Service provider (ISP) onto a mail server ~~located at the roaming customer's Internet Service Provider (ISP)~~ via a foreign network access server (NAS) while preventing the unauthorized distribution of foreign SPAM messages from the NAS to the mail server, comprising:

~~establish~~ establishing a network connection between the NAS and the ISP;
authenticating that the roaming customer is a registered customer of the ISP;
storing a data log in a ~~database at the ISP;~~ database, the data log comprising a plurality of attributes to track the roaming ~~customers~~ customer's usage of the network connection; and
~~transferring the data log to a mail access server at the ISP;~~
~~assigning an IP address to the roaming customer to access the mail server;~~
~~adding the IP address assigned to the roaming customer to a list of a valid IP address from the NAS that are allowed to access the mail server on the ISP; and~~
connecting the roaming user customer to the mail server using the IP address from the NAS.

16. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising removing the IP address from the list of at least one valid IP address upon receiving a command to log off the roaming customer from mail server.

17. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein authenticating the roaming customer comprises:

receiving a user identification (USERID) and a password associated with the roaming customer;

~~transferring the USERID and password to an authentication server at the ISP;~~

comparing the USERID and password from the roaming customer to a list of at least one USERID and password ~~USERIDs and passwords associated with each registered customers at least one registered customer~~ of the ISP ~~stored at the authentication server;~~ ISP;

transmitting a positive response ~~to the NAS~~ if the USERID and password associated with the roaming customer matches a USERID and password associated with a registered customer from the ~~list stored at the authentication server;~~ and list; and

transmitting a negative response ~~to the NAS~~ if the USERID and password does not match a USERID and password associated with at least one registered customer of the ISP from the list of at least one USERID and password stored at the authentication server.

18. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising, creating a data log associated with the roaming customer ~~at the time the roaming customer logs onto the mail server;~~ customer, wherein the data log comprises a START identifier, the USERID and password associated with the roaming customer, the IP address assigned to the roaming customer, a RELAY to the mail server from the ~~NAS~~ NAS, and a timestamp indicating the starting time the roaming customer logged onto the mail server.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning an IP address to the roaming customer.

20. (New) The method of claim 7, further comprising transferring the USERID to an authentication server on the ISP.
21. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising transmitting the USERID and password from the Internet device to the foreign NAS.
22. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising assigning a local IP address to the roaming customer, the local IP address being selected from a plurality of IP addresses at the foreign NAS.
23. (New) The method of claim 11, further comprising not allowing the roaming customer to authenticate.
24. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the START record comprises a NAS IP address, a NAS protocol, a NAS port type, a User name, a called station ID, a calling station ID, an account status type, an account authentication, a service type, an account authentication, a service type, an account session ID, a framed protocol, an account delay time, and a start timestamp.
25. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising transferring the data log to a mail access server at the ISP.

26. (New) The method of claim 15, further comprising assigning an IP address to the roaming customer to access the mail server.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising adding the IP address assigned to the roaming customer to a list of a valid IP address from the NAS that are allowed to access the mail server on the ISP.